FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VISITING SAUDI MINISTER ON BILATERAL PROGRAMS

PY171852 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1440 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (NA) -- Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir said today that there was no discussion about the possible exchange of arms or military technology between Argentina and Saudi Arabia. He added that in his meeting with Economy Minister Roberto Alemann they did not discuss "the possible investment of Arab capital in the Argentine oil sector." He added, however, that in his negotiations with high-ranking Argentine Government officials they discussed the possible investment of Arab capital in the lumber, cold storage and mining sectors. During a press conference he held today before his departure, Nazir stated that Saudi Arabia is interested in the nuclear cooperation that Argentina may provide but he noted that the nuclear sector is not at this time a priority area in bilateral negotiations.

The Saudi planning minister said that a signficiant economic cooperation program can be achieved by building cold storage plants in Saudi Arabia. He added in this regard that Saudi Arabia is interested in building cold storage plants because it plans to purchase meat from Argentina and then reexport it to other Arab countries.

Moreover, the planning minister denied that a bilateral agreement to increase the purchases of Argentine grain by Saudi Arabia had been signed during his stay in Argentina; but he said that an increase in the total volume of Argentine exports, which include meats, grain, and other industrial products, had been studied.

Asked about the possible investment of Saudi capital in the Salado River hydroelectric project, Nazir said that "no specific mention of this project was made."

About the possibility that Arab banks will finance Argentina's foreign debt, Nazir said that the Saudi Government does not exercise control over banks and that therefore "they may spend their money as they wish." The press conference was held at the Planning Secretariat and it was also attended by Argentine Planning Secretary Jose Miret.

Visit Ends

PY171854 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1550 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (TELAM) -- Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir departed at noon today for his country from Ezeiza International Airport. At the end of a 3-day visit to Argentina, the Saudi minister left on a KLM flight at 1225.

GRAIN, MACHINERY DEAL WITH USSR SPECULATED

PY172228 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 17 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- Argentina will try to sell at least an extra 1.5 million tons of grain to the Soviet Union, in addition to existent trade agreements with that country, Trade Secretariat sources said yesterday.

The Soviet Union, in turn, is expected to request Argentina to double its imports of Soviet-made machinery to $100 million. The sources said this would be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the joint Argentine-Soviet trade committee, to be held in Buenos Aires starting March 29.

Considering the favorable outlook on the local crop and on Soviet needs, said the sources, Argentina's total grain exports to that country this year could add up to 11 million tons or more.

"Argentina aims at clinching grain exports on an agreement basis rather than on an aleatory pattern which provides no security," said the Trade Secretariat officials.

Argentina's chances of selling grain to the Soviet Union are not imperiled by U.S. exports to that country, the officials continued, since sales are done on an international-level price basis and local prices are now competitive. Meanwhile, private sources said the Soviet Union is planning to buy 3 million more tons of Argentine grain. Agreements signed by both countries foresee a trade of 4.5 million tons of coarse grain (maize, sorghum and soya) and 60,000 tons of beef. The Soviet Union has reportedly already bought 2 million tons of wheat from Argentina so far this year.

SAN JUAN PROVINCE FIRST TO LIFT POLITICAL BAN

PY181114 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0433 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] San Juan, 17 Mar (NA) -- The government of San Juan Province discontinued the political ban throughout the province by announcing today that political parties will be given an official meeting-place to hold rallies or other party ceremonies, thus implementing the first measure of this kind in Argentina. The measure, released today at noon by provincial Interior Minister Eduardo Poselman, provides that all political parties will be able to use the roofed stadium of Parque de Mayo in this capital to hold ceremonies and rallies "as long as they comply with the order and security regulations issued by the provincial government."

The decree, No 490, and signed by Governor Leopoldo Bravo, is, in fact, a positive response to the Multiparty's request to hold on 23 April a rally which is part of the mobilization program the group is developing in rural Argentina. The decree points out that despite the fact that Law 21,326 restricts political activities it "is necessary to adjust the rules and regulations in force to the prevailing situation" because "various political organizations have been asking to hold meetings, rallies and other eminently civic events."

It adds: "Thus, the various political organizations need to exercise an open-dialogue policy with their members" for which the government is placing at the disposal of the political parties the roofed stadium of Parque de Mayo which provides "the facilities and the security suitable" for this type of events.

Minister Poselman said in response to a journalist's question, that if the facilities of this stadium were not sufficient for political ceremonies "permission will be granted to hold said ceremonies on the grounds surrounding Parque de Mayo Stadium."

DEVELOPMENTALIST PARTY PROTESTS POLICE SHOOTING

PY172240 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 17 Mar 82 p9

[Text] Policemen shot and critically wounded 22-year-old Gabriel Bravo two weeks ago without any apparent cause or warning, the Movement for Integration and Development Party (MID) claimed yesterday. Police in an unmarked car fired 11 shots at Bravo at a service station in the town of Haedo, the press release stated. According to the MID account, Bravo was shot while at the wheel of his own car, having just been followed into the service station by the police. Provincial authorities have allegedly offered no explanation for the shooting, which the MID considered "expressive of the escalating repression which is being imposed on the country.

BANZER PROPOSES CIVILIAN-MILITARY GOVERNMENT

PY171610 Paris AFP in Spanish 1410 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer Suarez (1971-1978), has proposed the creation of a civilian-military government capable of reestablishing democratic institutionality, according to information released here today. He made this proposal at a meeting which he had requested with the high military command and the chiefs of staff of the armed forces. At this meeting he also suggested that the armed forces should make a call for dialogue to the leaders of the various acknowledged political parties of the country without exclusions of whatever kind. On that occasion the former president stated his concern over the Bolivian crisis evidenced by the bad image the country and its government have abroad and by the lack of faith of the citizens in domestic affairs, a situation which is taken advantage of by the enemies of the armed forces. Banzer said that in view of this situation, even though the crisis has economic and social effects, the solutions must be eminently political.

Torrelio Comments

PY180220 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] At a meeting held at Miraflores armed forces headquarters yesterday afternoon, former President Hugo Banzer Suarez told President Celso Torrelio Villa and armed forces officers that the armed forces should summon all political parties without discrimination to form a provisional civilian-military government until democratic institutionality is implemented.

General Torrelio Villa today stated to the press that the points that were analyzed at the meeting held yesterday between high-ranking military officers and Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez are in keeping with the armed forces position. On referrring to the present government's position, Torrelio Villa said: We agree with General Banzer that the unity of the Bolivian people is the only solution to achieve national development and progress.

General Torrelio's statements on the meeting held with Banzer have caused political circles to state that a meeting between political parties and the armed forces is an upcoming certainty.

This call has been proposed by several political sectors during the last few months, although some of them have stressed more emphatically the need for restoring the armed forces to their specific institutional functions. The pressure exerted by these political forces, and now by Banzer and his nationalist Democratic Action Party, could bring forward the 3-year deadline which was set by President Torrelio Villa upon taking power last September.

BRIEFS

1981 IMPORTS -- Bolivian imports in 1981 -- cost, insurance and freight values -- totaled $846 million. Imports can be broken down as follows: $52,880,000 worth of basic imports; $549,660,000 worth of manufactured goods; $241,620,000 worth of semifinished products; and $1,860,000 worth of other goods. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Feb 82 p 6 PY]

IDB, IBRD CREDIT PROMISED -- The IDB and IBRD have promised combined credits of $346 million to Bolivia for projects in the productive sectors in 1982 and part of 1983. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Feb 82 p 13 PY]

NEW INITIATIVE IN CENTRAL AMERICA APPLAUDED

PY172304 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 17 Mar 82 p 4

[Editorial: "A New Hope"]

[Text] The five-nation meeting on Sunday and Monday in Washington on Central America seems to be the first really positive international, multi-lateral initiative for the region. The United States, rightly so, as far as we can see, is now trying to use the good offices of some other hemispheric countries in order to resolve the growing differences between it and the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua as well as to try to find a formula to contain the civil war in El Salvador.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has agreed to study the Mexican proposal for talks with Nicaragua, which is an encouraging position. Mexico, as is known, would like to keep the conflicts in the region contained locally without the intervention of outside powers, which is a real danger at the moment.

The U.S. mainly is preoccupied about the projection of Soviet power into this hemisphere through the use of Cuba as a surrogate. Any reasonable formula which will keep this from happening would probably be acceptable to Washington. The danger has been that neither the Soviets nor the Cubans will preceive that Ronald Reagan is at the end of his patience and will feel compelled to the use of force to keep Central America in the American sphere of influence.

Having Mexico, Canada, Venezuela and Colombia participate in the diplomatic process dilutes the risk for Washington, and we are pleased to see these other nations taking an active part in the attempt to find real solutions. Nicaragua, under the Sandinistas, probably has felt itself getting pushed into a corner. With the diplomatic help of these other neighboring countries, we believe that Nicaragua's role can be made to be constructive as Central America tries to come to grips with the wave of social unrest that has been decades in the making.

The American condition that Nicaragua sing a nonaggression pact is an interesting new twist. Since it would be a promise by both the United States and Nicaragua to forswear aggression it sounds like a solution that can be acceptable to all parties involved in the dispute.

The United States simply doesn't want the flames of the El Salvador civil war fanned by outsiders. Nicaragua's participation in the El Salvador guerrillas are using Nicaragua as a staging and rest area and arms are being channeled into El Salvador via Nicaragua.

If Nicaragua can see its way to accepting the joint proposal offered by the United States with Mexican, Canadian, Colombian and Venezuelan backing, a great stride will have been made in preserving both peace in the region and the right of nations to solve their own internal political problems.

AIR MINISTER AGREES WITH REAGAN'S OVERALL POLICY

PY17 [illegible]07 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 82 p 7

[Excerpt] Yesterday Air Minister Lt Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos stated that he believes U.S. President Ronald Reagan's overall policy to be correct, but refrained from making any comments on the U.S. policy for Central America.

During a meeting with journalists -- after a ceremony in which he was decorated with the Order of Areronautical Merit by Gen David C. Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff -- he pointed out the understanding which prevails between the Brazilian and U.S. Armed Forces. In referring to the attitude of Carter's government when Brazil denounced an agreement for military cooperation signed with the United States in 1952, he stated that "there was a period in which the U.S. Government adopted a ceremonious attitude but it no longer exists."

Lt Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos agreed with an observation made by a journalist that Reagan's policy is more in keeping with Brazil's interests. He said that the Brazilian policy has always favored the peoples' right to self-determination and added: "We do not want others interfering in our problems."

PMDB PRESIDENT HITS EXTENSION OF PARTY DEADLINE

PY171335 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in' Portuguese 9 Mar 82 p 4

[Excerpt] PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] President Ulysses Guimaraes yesterday did not have enough words to express his annoyance at the government's decision to extend for another 6 months the deadline for political party affiliation for PMDB or PP [Popular Party] members. Guimaraes noted yesterday in Sao Paulo that "the government is trying to change the electoral law into the PDS [Social Democratic Party] statute."

He added: "This is the ultimate self-serving measure. It is unbelievable that the government is still alleging that it is striving to achieve a political opening and to hold elections on these bases. We must alert the public to witness what is happening." In addition to being "unacceptable," Guimaraes believes that this is a "completely arbitrary" government measure because, he notes: "No arguments could be raised if this measure were to include all parties, since every individual has the right to be a member of the party he chooses. But to strictly circumscribe this measure to the PMDB and the PP is absurd, it is a trick."

The PMDB president said that he will continue to study the issue and its effects and that he will continue to "denounce the hateful measures through which the government is undermining the opposition in the country."

Upon his arrival in Brazilia Ulysses Guimaraes reasserted his position by stating that this proposal "proves that Planalto Palace is directly responsible for the radicalization of the election atmosphere."

He added: "But the PMDB is precisely striving to eradicate the enforcement of arbitrary measures, the eradication of violence, censorship, restrictions, packages and other monstrosities. The government views us as an enemy not as an adversary and that is why it is trying to destroy us. Once again on 15 November Brazilian society will see that the PMDB is the tool to put an end to this savageness."

JUSTICE MINISTER ON REELECTION BILLS, CAMPAIGN

PY171837 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1816 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Mar (TELAM) -- Brazilian Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel reasserted here today that Planalto Palace (government house) has no interest in the approval of two draft bills that enable the reelection of the president of the republic, state governors and mayors.

Commenting on this draft bill submitted by PDS [Social Democratic Party] Deputies Jose Camargo and Henrique Brito, Abi-Ackel noted that although we respect all initiatives of the legislative branch, we must note that in our country there is no tradition for reelecting the chief of state.

After noting that the PDS, the government party, has already launched its campaign for candidates in most states for the 15 November elections, the justice minister noted that, politically speaking, there is no interest in the reelection of mayors or governors.

Meanwhile the PDS national board that is meeting at the Sao Paulo State Legislature, has approved its first 2-year party program. The PDS plan notes that this year's elections are of transcendental importance for the country's political life and that the PDS is determined to achieve an overwhelming victory.

PDS leaders noted that the forthcoming municipal, congressional and state governor elections are the completion of the national political opening and democratization process lead by President Joao Figueiredo and supported by the official government party.

The PDS action plan notes the need for strengthening party unity and that the integration of all party trends must be promoted by including them in party slates since no one should be denied the chance to participate in the electoral process.

After noting that the holding of elections is the priority objective of the PDS, the action plan advocates the establishment of an open and pluralist society, based on tolerance and dialogue; in the search for a more just social order that will make compatible individual and social freedoms.

The PDS action plan ends by noting that "since we are aware of our responsibility to the government and to the nation, we call on the 3 million PDS members to try to win votes in order to achieve an overwhelming victory in the forthcoming elections."

The PDS national assembly will close tonight with the presence of cabinet members, governors, mayors and delegations from the interior of the country.

BRIEFS

PRODUCTION OF LIGHT PLANE -- The very light commerce and industry enterprise as of 1 April will start producing a very light type plane, weighing only 90 kg, at the rate of 20 per month. The plane, which is built with a frame of tubes and has a two-stroke engine, in addition to being used for recreation, it may be used foragriculture as well as training purposes. Each plane will cost 1.2 million cruzeiros. It has a top speed of 85 km/hour, and an endurance of 1 hour 30 minutes. Additional fuel tanks can be installed. The air-cooled engine has 30 hp and uses regular gasoline. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Mar 82 p 14 PY]

NEW PETROLEUM DEPOSIT -- The Brazilian Petroleum Corporation (PETROBRAS) has confirmed the discovery of a new oil deposit offshore near Salinopolis in Parana State. Petrobras has announced that since the Para 11 offshore deposit, with a production of 817 barrels per day, is exclusively for exploratory purposes it will be capped in order to continue studies to determine the volume of the deposit. It was also reported that the oil extracted from this deposit is a light type petroleum. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 82 p 28 PY]

PETROBRAS PRODUCTION -- Petrobras has announced that its daily oil production has reached 27 percent of the country's consumption. It has been pumping out between 260,000 to 280,000 barrels per day. [Rio de Janiero JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 1 PY]

GOVERNMENT'S ANSWER TO ARGENTINE PROTEST ISSUED

PY180003 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Fernando Zegers, the director general for foreign policy of the Foreign Ministry, this afternoon delivered the Chilean answer to the Argentine protest over the statement made by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Col Ernesto Videla. The answer was handed over to Argentine Ambassador Gen Jose Montes during a 25-minute meeting. After the meeting, the ambassador said: I was called by the director general of foreign policy who gave me the answer to the Argentine protest over the statement made by the Foreign Ministry under secretary. When asked about the text of the note, the ambassador answered: I have no idea of its text. I will keep it in a sealed envelope. I will read it when I arrive at my embassy. He added that the document will be immediately sent to Buenos Aires.

WIDESPREAD THREAT, SURVEILLANCE CAMPAIGN REPORTED

PY171520 Paris AFP in Spanish 1714 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Mar (AFP) -- According to news media reports numerous, apparently unrelated, threats from unknown sources are being made in this capital. Among those threatened is Gen (Ret) Roberto Viaux, who in 1969 headed a thwarted military uprising against the administration of the late Christian-Democrat President Eduardo Frei. "I know where the threats come from and I am not telling," Viaux said after his violent death had been announced anonymously to one of his sons and to the newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA.

The day before, the leadership of the Santiago journalists' union had reported to the supreme court of justice that a group of unknown individuals had raided the residence of one of its members, Ruben Donoso Soto. While Donoso was being held by two individuals armed with submachineguns, his 17-year old daughter was taken to an unknown place where she was interrogated naked and blindfolded, according to Radio Cooperative.

At the same time, lawyer Raul Jimenez, brother of the recently murdered Social Democratic Union leader Tucapel Jimenez, noticed that he was under constant surveillance by unknown persons and indicated that the veiled threatening surveillace could be related to the personal investigation which he is conducting to uncover the truth about his brother's death. Tucapel Jimenez, leader of the Chilean public servants, was shot and beheaded on 25 February and after his murder several dissident union leaders asked for permission to carry arms in view of constant anonymous threats of torture and death, according to Hernol Flores, president of the postal and telegraph workers.

A commando kidnapped Sergio Oyanedel, an accountant for various trade unions, and ordered him to leave the country in 2 days, while various leaders of the hotel workers union also received death threats, according to news media in Santiago.

ROJAS GALDAMES PLEASED BY FRENCH ENVOY'S RETURN

PY171322 Paris AFP in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Santiago, 16 Mar (AFP) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames today expressed his satisfaction over the return to his post of French Ambassador Leon Bouvier, who had been summoned to Paris by his government 2 weeks ago. Bouvier was summoned by the French Foreign Ministry after having made remarks to the Santiago magazine COSAS in which he criticized Cuba and gave his opinion about the French Communists, who were annoyed by Bouvier's remarks. Commenting on the return of the French ambassador -- with whom he will meet in the next few days -- the Chilean foreign minister said: It is very good news.

TURBAY AYALA DISCOUNTS MILITARY COUP POSSIBILITY

PA171940 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1257 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Madrid, 17 Mar (EFE) -- Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today told Radio Nacional de Espana [RNE] that there is no danger of a military coup in his country. He said that Colombia "has a professional army which has proved its loyalty to the institutions well and has triumphantly confronted the subversive's plans."

He added that the army intervenes only "to fulfill its constitutional mandate and to guarantee the peaceful exercise of the freedom and rights of the citizens."

Four years after assuming the presidency, Turbay Ayala explained, in front of RNE microphones, that he feels satisfied because, in his words, the quality of life of the Colombian people has improved considerably during this period of time.

Queried about possible aid by other countries to the Central American or Colombian guerrillas, Turbay Ayala said that "in the Colombian case, there is foreign intervention."

He explained that the guerrillas are preparing themselves and obtain their arms from places other than Colombia "and therefore there is foreign intervention, which is, moreover, not difficult to pinpoint."

On the Amnesty International charges of violations of human rights in Colombia, Turbay Ayala said that "in Colombia, as in every country of the world, there are abuses by lower ranking officials, but these do not go unpunished. Rather, they are investigated and punished."

Turbay Ayala does not believe in the impartiality of Amnesty International. He said: "I invited them to come to Colombia and they brought with them a report already drafted in which they played into the hands of the armed leftist rebel movements."

Regarding the Colombian presidential elections on 30 May 1982, Turbay Ayala said that as president he could not make statements to compromise his impartiality but that he could express his wishes.

He said that "my wish is to see myself succeeded by a citizen of my own political affiliation (Liberal Party), although I have the obligation to provide guarantees for everyone who is running for office."

In conclusion, Turbay Ayala stressed the affection and sympathy which Colombia has for Spain and its people, an affection which they know is returned by this country.

"I can say that in Latin America, Colombia is perhaps the country which has the greatest devotion for Spanish traditions and where, in addition, we pride ourselves in regarding the Spanish language with reverence," said the president.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS -- Bogota -- The governments of Colombia and Antigua and Barbuda established diplomatic relations today at the level of ambassadors. They will initially have nonresident ambassadors. [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 82 PA]

PRO-CHINESE GROUP BLAMED FOR RECENT VIOLENCE

PA180120 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Government Minister Galo Garcia has reiterated that members of the pro-Chinese Communist Popular Democratic Movement [MPD] are involved in the various violent actions that have been occurring in several parts of the country, particularly in Chone, Manabi Province.

[Begin Garcia recording] I would say that there are political reasons behind all this. A political chain links all these different strikes. The strike continues to be led by an MPD member in Tungurahua. This MPD infiltration was evident in Machache and we find it now in Chone. There is a possibility that this will spread to other sectors of the country unless Ecuadoreans assume their responsibility, each under his own ideology, for the problems and make a decision on what we can and must do. [end recording]

Garcia also discussed the participation of the National Chamber of Representatives mediating commission:

[Begin recording] The official letter issued by the president of the chamber says that I must release all those who were arrested. However, there was only one person arrested for carrying materials to promote disturbances or something similar in Chone. We also have Decree 105 approved by the National Constituent Assembly of 1976 and 1977: In other words, we have a law. Therefore, in my official letter to the president of the National Chamber of Representatives, I said that we will accept the request to withdraw the police forces [word indistinct] but we want to stress that these actions are unconstitutional because they go against constitutional norms, rights and law. [end recording]

Regarding government measures to stop the apparent wave of stoppages and strikes announced for the next few days in several parts of the country, he said:

[Begin recording] However, I feel that we must wait to see if the people will come to their senses. I think that the program 1 Hour, carried on Channel 4 on Sunday, that hosted politicians from various sectors served as a call that was not only addressed to the national government to cut down on public expenditure and reduce the budget, but to all Ecuadoreans.

This means that we must readjust the operations and work plans in order to limit them. Therefore, instead of making more demands, we must see what we have to do to implement them; this program was a demonstration of this. [end recording]

Aid Plans Underway

PA180150 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Summary] "Government minister Galo Garcia has disclosed the work that has been done over the past 3 weeks to review the programs that are worrying the Chone Canton Council and the commission of legislators appointed by the president of the National Chamber of Representatives. He said that this work is well known to the president of the Chone Canton Council as well as to the secretary and coordinator of the Central Committee for the Defense of Chone Interests."

"Garcia also said that the legislators ratified a request made by the president of the National Chamber of Representatives for the withdrawal of the public forces, which has been already complied with."

[Begin recording] Apparently a large portion of the Chone people have not been properly informed by some of their leaders. Yesterday I issued a lengthy communique summarizing our work for the past 3 weeks. "I will read it now, taking some of the media's time to urge them not to throw this communique away but to publish it so that we can help the country's public order."

The following measures have been adopted:

1. The Public Works Ministry will enter into contracts to build a 30-km rural road to link Chone, Colorado and Balzar at a cost of 82 million sucres.
2. The Public Works Ministry will build a 30-km road to link Boyaca and Cucuy at a cost of 90 million sucres.
3. The Public Works Ministry will build access roads to the largest city of the canton.
4. The Public Works Ministry will develop studies for the construction of a 60-km road to link Chone, (Bahia Empalme) and (Tocahqa).
5. The Chone Canton Council must prepare the documents to submit a request to increase credits to complete the paving program.
6. The Finance Ministry has opened a collection office in Chone.
7. The Education Ministry will build a coliseum at the (Solorzano-Hoyos) school costing approximately 10 million sucres.
8. The Chone Canton Council must turn over the necessary documents to the Education Ministry so that it can develop a sports program in that canton.
9. The Education Ministry ordered a ministry official of the National Directorate of School Constructions to go to Chone yesterday to compare reports received on the status of programs to improve school facilities.
10. The Education Ministry is negotiating a loan to increase the projects planned for Chone and other places in the country.
11. The finance minister has established the quotas that must be given to Chone so that the municipality can complete certain projects.
12. The Finance Ministry has financed the purchase of a vehicle to maintain the Chone sewage system.
13. The Ecuadorean Electrification Institute has issued a program for 1982 which includes the installation of various electrical lines.
14. The Public Health Ministry is involved in efforts to finance the new Chone hospital. As soon as the loan is obtained, the legal procedure necessary for the hospital's construction will begin.
15. The Manabi Rehabilitation Center [words indistinct] the Chone aqueduct.

"All these programs are the result of many hours of work by the various ministries and are well known to the president of the Chone Canton Council and the secretary and coordinator of the Central Committee for the Defense of Chone Interests." These two individuals are the true leaders of this illegal action which is contrary to the legal position that should be taken by all the country's sectors." [end recording]

Negotiations Continue

PA172211 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The negotiations between a mediating commission of the National Chamber of Representatives and the representatives of the Committee for the Defense of Chone Interests have begun amid a tense atmosphere. These negotiations are aimed at finding a solution to end the strike. However, the growing effects of the strike increased the government's concern because of new threats by Loja Province residents and El Oro banana producers who said that they will take further action if their demands are not given prompt attention.

The Chone strike spead to other cantons in Manabi Province. Meanwhile, outbreaks of student violence in Quito echoed the citizens' discontent over the death of a Chone student. The government was negotiating petitions made by delegations from Loja and El Oro Provinces.

According to (Enrique Delgado), who is reponsible for the Press Commission of the Committee for the Defense of Chone Interests, the strike will continue until the commission of the National Chamber of Representatives approves positive resolutions for this canton.

TAIWANESE FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUES VISIT

Meets Alvarez

PY051849 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Taiwanese investors will arrive in this country very soon in order to make large investments in our market. This was stated to El Espectador today by Republic of China Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung after a meeting with President Alvarez in government house. The visitor arrived in this country yesterday and has a wide-ranging program of activities. He said that he intends to strengthen the relations with countries such as Uruguay, basically on the level of trade and economy.

Referring to his meeting with Lt Gen (Ret) Gregorio Alvarez, Foreign Minister Chu said:

[Begin recording] I had the honor of being received in special audience by his excellency the president. We talked about subjects referring to our relations from the point of view of closer economic cooperation. Our talks was very frank and cordial.

Our businessmen have a high regard for the stability reigning here in Uruguay and the very favorable climate for investments, so they will seriously think of coming here to make studies [words indistinct]. Within a short time businessmen from the Republic of China will come here to Uruguay to make the studies. [end recording]

When he was then asked about the possibility of a unification of the two Chinas, such as is currently being studied regarding Korea, the visitor said he did not believe there was any such possibility.

Working Meeting Held

PY080216 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1530 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Mar (TELAM) -- The Republic of China intends to invest in agro-industries and in the fishing sector in Uruguay, and furnish technology, according to what was passed on by sources close to the Chinese delegation which is making an official visit to Uruguay. The head of the Chinese delegation, Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung, who has been visiting this country for the past few days, together with his entourage is in the internationally-known beach resort of Punta del Este today.

In that city, 100 km from Montevideo, Chu had a working meeting with the Uruguayan industry and energy minister, Francisco Toureilles.

Also participating in the meeting were the deputy commander in chief of the Chinese combined services force, Air Force Lt Gen (Chung Chi-Jung), the director of Central and South American Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Francisco H. Ou and the deputy director of the Agriculture and Forestry Directorate of the Economy Ministry, Tsai Hai-tu.

Though there was no official information on the topics dealt with at the meeting, diplomatic spokesmen affirmed that the Chinese delegation showed interest in various investments in Uruguay.

The Republic of China delegation will stay in this country until Tuesday, when it will continue its South American tour.

Meeting with Arismendi

PY081831 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] It has been learned that the Value Added Tax [VAT] will not be imposed on all products. Economy Minister Valentin Arismendi made this remark at noon today on receiving the Republic of China [ROC] minister. Arismendi added that VAT taxes will drop from 18 to 17 percent. There will only be taxes of 8 percent on other products, the minister stated.

Regarding the salary issue, he said that the next increase will depend on the economic situation. Referring to the exchange policy, he denied once again that there would be a big devaluation. He said that the mini-devaluation plan will continue in effect.

Asked about the subjects discussed with the ROC foreign minister, Arismendi stated that they discussed the possibility of creating joint enterprises, not companies with both private and state capital, but binational companies. He said that this initiative will be studied by the visiting minister upon returning to his country. The ROC foreign minister expressed support for the uruguayan economic model.

The Uguguayan foreign minister also stated that although we can admit that there are domestic causes, there are also foreign causes which create the current recession. As an example he cited the situation being experienced now by Argentina.

Joint Document

PY101141 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] [The Republic of] China will review its commercial legislation to allow Chinese capital to be invested in our country. This was established in a joint document signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries at the conclusion of the visit made by the ROC foreign minister to our country.

According to the agreement, the two countries are willing to strengthen their financial and economic relations. The medium-range possibilities of the agreement were discussed by Foreign Minister Valdes Otero.

[Begin Valdes recording] First of all, the document refers to the free investment of capital in some sectors because there are ROC investors who have repeatedly shown interest in investing in our country but have found themselves with some restrictions on getting their money out of China. Regarding Uruguay, these restrictions will be lifted for some sectors, in conclusion, the joint document expresses the willingness of the ROC to allow our meat products, our processed meats, to be sold in the Chinese market, a large market for meat, all kinds of (?tariff barriers) to that market will be eliminated or substantially reduced. [end recording]

BRIEFS

INFLATION LEVEL -- Montevideo, 6 Mar (TELAM) -- Economy and Finance Minister Valentin Arismendi reported tonight that inflation is currently at 25 percent and that its projected future rate is estimated at 15 percent. He said that the interest rate currently paid by banks is now set at 49 percent. He said it will be very difficult to overcome recession. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1920 GMT 6 Mar 82 PY]

PAREDES ON RETIREMENT, PRESIDENT CANDIDACY

PA172045 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Interview with Col Ruben Dario Paredes, National Guard commander in chief, by Circuito RPC Television reporter, on occasion of the transfer of command of the Panamanian Air Force on 17 March in Panama City -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] A few minutes ago you said that you would soon retire. Does this mean that you are planning to retire soon?

[Answer] Yes, when my time comes. No longer than a year from now.

[Question] When you retire in 1983, could you be the next presidential candidate?

[Answer] This is to be decided by the people, not me. I will be in my home. If you need me, you know where to find me. If you find other Panamanians, as I hope you do, I will be gald that you have found others who can run this country. What is important is that we continue living in harmony and peace.

[Question] Colonel Paredes, how do you interpret President Royo's statement that President Reagan's speech was positive and then you said that the National Guard was studying President Reagan's speech?

[Answer] There is apparently an interpretation of what I said which only covers half of my statement. When the National Guard high staff said it was studying President Reagan's speech, that is as far as I was quoted by those who criticized me, but they did not quote the rest. I said that we were studying the speech so that we could make a responsible recommendation to the executive branch so that it can find the factors for arriving at definite conclusions. I think we should all contribute ideas and suggestions. Therefore, why not the armed forces? We are Panamanians also.

[Question] Colonel Paredes, would these recommendations suggest the line to be followed at present?

[Answer] No, the Reagan proposal is a chapter parallel to what is taking place in America, primarily in Central America. It is not intended, however, to be followed as an international policy. Our recommendations have to do with the economic aspects and in taking advantage of the bridge that he is throwing -- a financial bridge if you wish to call it that -- so that the countries of the Caribbean Basin and of Central America can separately -- according to their own style and without sacrificing their system of government, their philosophy or, in our case, their democratic aspects -- take advantage of it or not. There are countries that will take advantage of the proposal and others who won't because the help apparently has come too late.

[Question] Colonel Paredes, two more questions: One, you said that you would submit a bill in which the National Guard would be an element of balance in the elections. Some have said that this is unconstitutional. The other question: When will you officially assume command of the National Guard?

[Answer] This already took place. Didn't you see it? In relation to whether the guardsmen should vote or not, we have decided to leave that up to the people. In our case, we honestly want our men to be in charge of public order on election day, to prevent violence among brothers. We feel that guardsmen should not participate, not because they haven't the right -- they do -- but because they should be given more freedom to maintain order at the polls and streets. Under no circumstances should guardsmen favor any candidate. They should only serve their country, the country to which we all belong.

EL SALVADOR

PAPER DETAILS GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON TOWNS

PA180155 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 Mar 82 pp 2, 33

[Excerpts] According to unofficial sources, some 200 guerrillas attacked Cuscatancingo, Mejicanos and Ciudad Delgado. The attack began yesterday shortly before 1400. According to reports, the extremists took Cuscatancingo first where they broke into Radio Romantica and broadcast a subversive message. Meanwhile, others in their group fired on the command post with large-caliber weapons. In Cuscatancingo the guerrillas placed several Route 20 buses across the streets and destroyed a small vehicle.

Later, at approximately 1355, three buses loaded with terrorists arrived at Mejicanos. Some got off before the municipal building, others took refuge in the church and the last group entered the old Astor movie house which was partially destroyed by a bomb about a year ago. It was said that a Route 2 bus was placed across the street in front of the Mejicanos municipal building; a Route 24 bus was placed across Juan Averle Avenue and another in front of the Astor movie house.

In Cuscatancingo, residents said that the terrorists, dressed in olive drab, arrived in large numbers and that they had a red insignia on their arms. It was unofficially said that several bombs had been detonated at the entrance to this district. A soldier told newsmen that he had seen eight dead terrorists.

A civilian defense member said that two of his companions had been killed and two soldiers had been wounded in the arm but that the wounded soldier had continued firing on the attackers. The body of an unidentified man was found in a pickup; his arms had been shattered. It was said that he was going to throw a grenade at the soldiers when he was killed.

Meanwhile, in Mejicanos, the subversives who arrived in three buses practically surrounded the municipal building. Civilian defense members who were at the municipal police station said that the terrorists had reached the grounds of the municipal building but that they could not enter because soldiers from the 1st Brigade arrived promptly. Violent fighting occurred near the municipal building, the church, the Jardin district, the command post and practically throughout all of Mejicanos. Some people reported that when the soldiers arrived, the terrorists fired on them from the church and the Presidente bakery located in front of the church. After everything was almost over, a soldier was instantly killed by a shot, it was reported.

Four of the terrorists were killed near the Astor movie house, including a woman. It was also said that three other terrorists had been killed in the church whose facade had many bulletholes. It is believed that some of the attackers fled through the back of the church and that they had broken through a wooden partition. It was said that the subversives also fired on a helicopter flying over Mejicanos.

According to reports from Ciudad Delgado, the firing began half an hour before the other two places were attacked. And although large-caliber weapons were heard firing until 1700, no bodies were reported. A command post unit said that the subversives fled toward the main north highway through some brush in San Martin District. As a whole, the people of Mejicanos, Cuscatancingo and Ciudad Delgado experienced 2 hours of anguish when the subversives apparently tried to take and hold these placed. Fortunately, however, the subversives were repelled and drived off by the army.

An official bus driver of the 1st Infantry Brigade (San Carlos Fort) reported on his actions yesterday afternoon against subversives who attacked this garrison without much effect, as well as in Mejicanos, Cuscatancingo and Ciudad Delgado, where the members of the 1st Brigade alone killed 11 terrorists. This information came out at a news conference where the materiel taken from the extremists was displayed.

This materiel includes 2 radio transmitters, 4 M-16 rifles, 1 Chinese-made RPG-2 rocket launcher, 7 ammunition clips with 25 and 30 rounds of 5.56-mm ammunition, 3 ammunition and canteen carriers, several pairs of combat boots similar to those issued by the army, several 40-mm shells, 1 FAL rifle, large amounts of subversive propaganda, 47 knapsacks for carrying ammunition, placards with the name Carlos Rojas, 15 black shirts marked "sports" used by terrorists to avoid confusion among themselves, plus 173 rounds of 7.62-mm ammuntion and 2 sets of radio batteries.

It was also announced that only one soldier was wounded in this garrison. The casualties inflicted on the terrorists by other army units are not yet known.

GUATEMALA

OPPOSITION REJECTS GUEVARA'S NATIONAL UNITY OFFER

PA180323 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Alejandro Maldonado, former presidential candidate of the Opposition Union, said that the Christian Democratic and the National Renovation Parties rejected Gen Angel Anibal Guevara's proposal to all national sectors to form a national unity government commencing in July.

[Begin Maldonado recording] We have learned -- and this is very important -- about the proposals for a national unity government. We believe that the proper conditions for this unity do not exist at this time. We cannot sit at the same table with corruption and crime. Therefore, any project for national unity presented by any group in the country must begin with the premise that we refuse to directly or indirectly serve as instruments to continue the present situation. [end recording]

Maldonado Aguirre accused the outgoing and incoming regimes of polarizing the country: [Begin recording] We accuse the existing political structures in the government of being responsible for any polarization that exists in Guatemala and hold them responsible for giving political victory to the leftist Marxist groups in Guatemala. The only winners in this fraudulent process are those involved in corruption and those who have rejected the electoral process, claiming that it was a farce. [end recording]

Maldonado Aguirre said that the Opposition Union candidates who won in the 7 March popular elections could resign prior to assuming their new posts: [Begin recording] These Opposition Union measures are meant to enforce respect for the rights of Guatemalans. We have maintained this position in the [words indistinct] of the posts of election and representation, which have been legitimately won in our case because it has been officially recognized that we won 250,000 clean votes. The Opposition Union could never claim a vote it did not have. Our posts have been cleanly won under these circumstances, but we are determined to use this measure in the defense of the peoples rights. [end recording]

PRESIDENT-ELECT VIEWS RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

PA170434 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] In his first statement on foreign policy, and speaking as president-elect, Gen Angel Anibal Guevara has said that his government will be one of friendship with all democratic countries of the Western world. He added that he will trade with European countries in the Soviet bloc and emphasized that his government will follow a policy of close relations with the U.S. Government.

[Begin recording] I want to emphasize that my administration will be characterized by a policy of very close relations with the U.S. Government. We want to have a very close friendship with the Reagan administration, as long as these relations fall within the framework of two sovereign nations such as Guatemala and the United States.

With this friendship and understanding between the two countries, we can analyze the aid our countries need from the U.S. Government so that this aid can be used effectively and so the United States understands us and our problems. In this manner that country can give us the hand we need to progress. [end recording]

General Guevara also said that his regime will be pluralist and this his program considers amnesty for the guerrillas as well as a policy of closer relations with Central America, especially Nicaragua, with friendship, noninterference and mutual respect. [Begin recording] We want to have a sincere friendship with Nicaragua, a friendship without interference. The Nicaraguans are responsible for what happens in their country. We respect other countries and will not become involved in their domestic problems.

For the present, we want [word indistinct] with Nicaragua and a good friendship and relationship so that peace can return to Guatemala. I sincerely hope that the people of Nicaragua, that is to say, the Nicaraguan Government, responds to our gesture of friendship and to our policy of not interfering in the affairs of other countries. [end recording] You have heard Guatemalan President-elect Gen Anibal Guevara via our foreign hookup.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTER PROTESTS FONSECA GULF INCIDENT

PA172100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2018 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica called Nicaraguan Ambassador Guillermo Suarez to his office today "to present, through him, a formal protest for a Sandinist vessel's armed attack on a Honduran Navy patrol boat in the Gulf of Fonseca. The attack occurred Monday in Honduran waters." Paz Barnica said that he had received "a complete and detailed report on the violation of Honduran territorial waters and the machinegunning by Sandinist Army personnel of a small Honduran patrol boat."

The minister also revealed that a Honduran marine initially reported as dead had been only wounded and that he is "under intensive medical care in this capital." Paz Barnica expressed his concern "over this new incident provoked by Sandinists, since this hampers the normal development of relations between Honduras and Nicaragua."

Navy Communique

PA171406 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Honduran Navy Public Relations Office on 16 March 1982 in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] The Honduran Navy Public Relations Office reports to the people in general:

1. At 1100 on 15 March, there was an incident in Honduran territorial waters in the Gulf of Fonseca, when a Honduran Coast Guard patrol Boat, on routine patrol, sighted an unidentified boat coming from the side of Nicaragua toward Honduran territorial waters. The Honduran patrol boat sailed in that direction to intercept the boat for further identification. When the two boats were close enough, the strange boat was ordered to stop, which it apparently did. When the Honduran coast guardsmen tried to board the boat, however, the crew members of the unidentified boat opened fire on our coast guardsmen, who returned the fire. As result of this action, Marine Corporal Mario Roberto Ramos was seriously wounded and probably some crew members of the unidentified boat. In order to take proper care of the wounded corporal, the Coast Guard patrol boat immediately returned to its base, after asking for another patrol boat to take its place and give aid to the crew members of the other boat.

When the patrol boat arrived, however, the unidentified boat was abandoned with its motor running and going in a circle. There was no one on board and the crew's whereabouts are still unknown.

At the moment of issuing this communique, we can report that Corporal Ramos is responding satisfactorily to medical treatment in a hospital in Tegucigalpa.

2. The Honduran Navy regrets these unpleasant incidents. However, it cannot permit disrespect in our territorial waters. Tegucigalpa, 16 March 1982

PNH DEPUTIES CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM CONGRESS

PA170440 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Mar 82 p 60

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The National Party of Honduras [PNH] could order the withdrawal of its deputies from the National Congress in the next few hours, it was reported yesterday in this capital. The PNH would do this to protest the antidemocratic way in which the sessions of the legislative branch are manipulated. Only the motions of the Liberal Party are heard there.

According to reports, the PNH bench has been just a toy for the alleged democracy that dominates the congress, since the rules of order have been suspended and the floor is only being given to deputies of the majority party. Although some PNH deputies are opposed to the withdrawal of the PNH bench, basically because they fear the loss of their income, most of the PNH deputies believe that it is not possible to continue to support a congress where the minorities are not considered.

There is the case of the motion to call the foreign affairs secretary and the defense secretary so that they could explain the negotiations for the establishing of foreign military bases in Honduras. This motion was presented by the Christian Democracy. The motion was rejected by the Liberal Party deputies. The same thing happened to a motion presented by PNH deputy (Nicolas Cruz). This PNH deputy called for urgent measures to deal with kidnappings and bank robberies.

In the latest congressional sessions it has been noted that the deputies of the PNH, the Christian Democracy and the Innovation and Unity Party reluctantly go to the assembly room and are mere spectators of the debates which the Liberal deputies hold among themselves. The irony of this is that the only deputy who somewhat opposes the abuses of the directors is Liberal Party attorney (Orlando Gomez Cisneros), who, according to some PNH militants, has been instructed by his party to publicly dissent from his colleagues' position for the purpose of giving the debates a democratic appearance.

It is expected that today the Central Committee of the PNH and the PNH deputies will meet to decide on the proposal to withdraw en masse from the legislative branch, thus leaving the Liberal deputies alone.

NICARAGUA

OFFICIAL ALLEGES U.S. TROOPS ON HONDURAN ISLAND

PA172017 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] (Andres Alvarado Puerto), Honduran foreign relations minister [as heard] and Foreign Ministry adviser, has charged that an undetermined number of U.S. Marines are entrenched on an island in the Gulf of Fonseca as part of a plan to establish an espionage center against Nicaragua and a military training base there. The Honduran official raised his charge through the daily newspaper EL TIEMPO and noted that Amapala Island is being turned into a sort of Guantanamo base in Central America by the United States.

In addition, newsmen who visited the area said that Amapala Island, a traditionally quiet island of 5,000 inhabitants, has become a militarized area, in view of which the civilian population has formed a defense committee to demand the immediate withdrawal of all troops from the area.

GOVERNMENT SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO HONDURAS

PA180525 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0425 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Letter addressed to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco on 17 March 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Minister: I am honored to address this letter to you referring to the serious incidents that occurred on 14 March when terrorists with operation bases in Honduras and explosives experts blew up a bridge over the Negro River on the road to the Guasaule post on the Honduran border and damaged another bridge in Ocotal on the road to the Las Manos post, also in Nicaraguan territory near the Honduran border.

These incidents are very grave because the terrorists are operating from Honduran territory. We have repeatedly protested these incursions that originate in your country, to where assassins and terrorists return with impunity after carrying out their criminal actions. Our government does not know of any measures taken by your government to control these criminal activities, which are seriously affecting the peaceful coexistence between our states and constitute a real threat for the security and tranquillity of Nicaragua, whose civilian population remains terrified.

According to my government, these activities are even more serious because we have made repeated attempts to convoke a meeting between the defense ministers of our two countries as agreed upon in the meeting between Honduran and Nicaraguan chiefs of state that was held at Guasaule on 13 May 1981, and these attempts have failed. This meeting between defense ministers was agreed to so that our ministers could propose adequate measures for an effective joint patrol to put an end to these criminal incursions that are causing so much pain and blood to our people.

My government has been observing with profound concern the inability of your government to control these criminal actions. This concern increases because none of the measures suggested have been implemented.

Therefore, with pertinent instructions from the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, I am expressing my most vigorous protest and demand that the Honduran authorities adopt immediate measures to prevent incidents such as those mentioned in this note and many other previous notes; and I am asking you to inform me what measures will be taken by your government, which is obligated out of respect for international law to regard the rights and duties of states. I reiterate to Your Excellency the testimony of my highest and distinguished consideration.

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO HONDURAN PROTEST NOTE

PA180620 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0425 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Letter addressed to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco on 17 March 1982; quotemarks as stated -- read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Mr Minister: I am addressing Your Excellency to acknowledge receipt of your official letter No 164-DSM dated 15 March, in which you mention a confusing and contradictory incident between an unknown boat and two Honduran boats, one of them a Honduran Navy patrol boat, in Pacific Ocean waters.

I would like to tell Your Excellency that I am very surprised when you mention the Honduran jurisdictional waters in the Pacific Ocean, where the Honduran patrol boat was located according to your note. I am surprised because, according to the geographical position of Nicaragua and El Salvador, it is not possible to state that Honduras has jursidictional waters in the Pacific Ocean as your country claims. Therefore, it can be surmised from this geographical configuration that the Honduran patrol boat was either in Salvadoran jurisdictional waters or, more likely, in Nicaraguan jurisdictional waters in the Pacific Ocean; in which case the boat would be involved in a serious violation of Nicaraguan territorial sovereignty. Trying to claim jurisdiction in these waters would be an inadmissible attitude that can only deserve our complete repudiation.

Your Excellency continued to say in your note that the Honduran patrol boat, which was accompanied by a rescue boat -- we don't know why -- intercepted the "suspicious" boat, which opened fire when the rescue boat approached, wounding a Honduran sailor. You added that, in view of this surprise attack, the Honduran boats retreated after responding to the fire in order to take the wounded sailor to Ampala port for immediate treatment. "Another Honduran patrol boat later appeared at the scene of the incident, finding the suspicious boat with its motor running and floating in a circle without any crewmen, whose whereabouts are unknown."

It is incoherent -- if not absurd -- to state in your version that a simple boat attacked two Honduran boats, one of them a Honduran patrol boat. In other words, this simple boat attacked a well-armed boat with such luck that it forced the patrol boat and the boat that was accompanying it to retreat. These boats were reinforced by another patrol boat to control the "aggressive" boat. It is even more incredible to hear that the last patrol boat found the boat with the motor running and floating in a circle with no crewmen aboard, as if these men would decide to abandon the boat and swim ashore after successfully confrongting the Honduran boats. The alternative that the crewmen were picked up by some other boat is completely illogical because their boat was in good condition, with the motor running, as Your Excellency's note says. This makes this incident completely senseless and incongruous.

However, we believe that the incident occurred but in a completely different way than the version given to Your Excellency. I will explain it to you here:

At 1200 on 15 March near the Nicaraguan port of Potosi, a Honduran Coast Guard boat and another boat which we presume was a Salvadoran boat -- one was blue and the other was white -- attacked the (San Diego) owned by the Nicaraguan Fishing Institute [INPESCA] and manned by (Juan Jose Martinez Reyes) and (Javier Azila Chacon Ruiz), INPESCA inspectors. This attack occurred in Nicaraguan jurisdictional waters in the Gulf of Fonseca. The boat, which had an outboard motor, was located approximately 8 km northeast of Potosi port. According to our reports, the two crewmen were captured by the Honduran Coast Guard and were taken to Ampala port in Honduras.

According to a statement by two fishermen who were nearby, the crewmen tried to flee the area when they saw the Coast Guardsmen coming. This was impossible because of the superiority of the Coast Guard ship and the shots that were being fired. These incidents, which are more logical in sequence than those explained in Your Excellency's note, are very serious because they involve a violation of our territorial waters and a premeditated attack on a defenseless boat, which resulted in the disappearance of its two crewmen for whose lives we are seriously afraid.

Your Excellency's note increases this apprehension because it not only presents unbelievable facts but reports that the crewmen who had allegedly attacked the patrol boat are missing. The boat in question can only be the (San Diego) because the date and time of the incident coincide with its location even though the story was distorted.

In addition, these incidents are a reason for serious concern for Nicaragua because we believe that a conflictive situation is being created with this confrontation in the Gulf of Fonseca that, in the present context of increased provocations and threats against our country, makes us believe that these incidents in the Gulf could very well be a prelude or a pretext to justify greater attacks.

Nicaragua insists and will continue to insist that it is disposed toward peace and expects that the illustrious Honduran Government will in addition to immediately releasing the (San Diego) crewmen, cooperate so these incursions into our territory will finally end. We want to repudiate this new violation of our national sovereignty and the attack on the boat in question, thus concurrently rejecting Your Excellency's note. I want to take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my highest and distinguished consideration.

SALVADORAN ATTACK ON FISHING BOAT PROTESTED

PA180533 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0425 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Letter from Acting Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco to Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena; dated 17 Mar 82 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Minister: I take this opportunity to address Your Excellency, referring to the attack carried out today against a Nicaraguan fishing boat by a Salvadoran patrol boat. At approximately 0930, the Nicaraguan fishing boat called (Jutiava), which was sailing 1 mile off our coast near (Cumpanata) in Nicaraguan territorial waters in the Gulf of Fonseca, was approached by a Salvadoran Coast Guard boat that had entered Nicaraguan territory in flagrant violation of our sovereignty.

The Salvadoran Coast Guard boat unexpectedly attacked the fishing boat, which was carrying a guardsman from the Sandinist Navy. As a result of the attack, the boats exchanged fire for over 1 hour. In the shooting, Sgt (Bernardo Davila Blanco) of the Sandinist Navy was wounded and the fishing boat was damaged.

Despite the many statements by the Nicaraguan Government in an effort to reduce tensions in the area, we have often found that these incidents take place at a time when our country is engaged in the serach for peaceful solutions to the crisis in the region, which leads us to have well-founded fears regarding the origin of such attacks.

The Nicaraguan Government, through myself, presents to the enlightened Government of El Salvador its most resolute and vigorous protest over this new, deliberate attack on our country and on Nicaraguan-flag vessels with the apparent objective of provoking a premediated increase in tension in the Gulf of Fonseca that could justify subsequent acts of aggression. At the same time, we demand from your enlightened government an immediate end to actions of this type. I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest and most distinguished esteem.

BARRICADA BLASTS U.S. 'RESPONSIBILITY FOR TERROR'

PA171447 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[17 March BARRICADA editorial: "Terrorism and U.S. Complicity"]

[Text] The absolute reluctance of the U.S. Government to either confirm or deny its involvement in the terrorist actions against Nicaragua -- one of the most recent results being the blowing up of two bridges on Sunday -- can only be described as an act of monstrous complicity.

As has been the case in recent months, every time Reagan and his spokesmen are consulted about U.S. Government participation in aggression against Nicaragua and the existence of a covert CIA plan to destabilize the revolution, they merely reply with an absurd "No comment."

Rather than answer newsmen who approach them, State Department spokesmen evade the real issue with worn-out arguments and absurd accusations against Nicaragua, or make up evidence that crumbles like castles in the air.

Reagan's responsibility for the terrorism unleased against the Nicaraguan people is of concern to the entire world, from realistic circles in the United States to European governments, who have been traditionally allies of Washington.

The questions that come to the mind of any senisble person in view of the stubborn attitude of Reagan, Haig and their spokesmen, could well be the following: If the United States is not patronizing, promoting with cash and training the counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries sent to our country, why doesn't it officially isolate itself from such actions against our people? What is the meaning of the term "peace," with the continued support of the Salvadoran genocidal military junta and an electoral farce opposed by most European governments, which reject the bloody comedy organized by Napoleon Duarte and the military sector? How can one interpret Reagan's concern over the Central American area if he refuses to deny or confirm delivery of $19 million to CIA for a covert operation against Nicaragua? Why doesn't Washington specifically reply to the question whether the blowing up of two bridges and the murder of over 100 Nicaraguans since November on the border is part of this covert operation?

Of course, it would be naive to expect an answer to these questions, just as it would be naive to expect that Reagan's irrational hatred of the Nicaraguan people and their revolution will diminish.

The truth is, however, that his warmongering adventures are cause for worldwide concern, because he happens to be the President of one of the most powerful nations on earth, whose insanity could drive the world into a holocaust. That is why the national emergency decree must be interpreted as a logical answer to a clearly visible aggression already underway, which, analysis of the attitude of Reagan and his team shows, could acquire a more tragic appearance at any moment.

JUNTA SUSPENDS EL NUEVO DIARIO FOR 24 HOURS

PA171510 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The Communications Media Directorate, by virtue of the provisions of the national state of emergency announced Monday night by the revolutionary government, has suspended for 24 hours publication of the morning paper EL NUEVO DIARIO.

The sanction is for an eight-column headline on the front page of the 16 March edition which read: "State of Siege." The directorate points out that this headline doesn't reflect the facts, since there isn't a state of siege in the country, but an emergency decree designed to block any plans for aggression against our people. This type of headline, the communique adds, creates confusion among the Nicaraguan people. For these reasons, and on the basis of the present state of emergency, the directorate suspends publication of EL NUEVO DIARIO for 24 hours.

NUNEZ MEETS WITH STATION REPRESENTATIVES

PA172222 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Following an open and frank dialogue with Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, each of the owners and representatives of private-sector radio stations agreed to take a calm, responsible attitude regarding the national emergency measures.

The dialogue was attended by owners and representatives of Radio Mundial, Radio Corporacion, Radio Mil, Radio Catolica, Radio Noticias, Radio Reloj and the daily LA PRENSA. Radio Catolica has been shut down by the Communications Media Directorate.

Some flexible procedures were considered for the task of revising every radio program. It was agreed not to change social, musical and sports programs after the directors and responsible officials formally promised not to use these programs for other purposes.

In response to a request that Radio Catolica's case be reconsidered, Commander Carlos Nunez told Father (Bismark Carvallo), the station's representative, that the media directorate would consider the request. Nunez reminded him, however, that the station had violated the law.

Yesterday Carlos Nunez held another meeting with newsmen of the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists, UPN, to whom he outlined the seriousness of the political situation in Central America and consequently in Nicaragua due to the armed aggressions of Yankee imperialism.

ROBELO SUPPORTS STATE OF EMERGENCY DECREE

PA171752 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The president of the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board, engineer Alfonso Robelo Callejas, has also joined the national consensus supporting the promulgation of the national state of emergency. He noted that if he had been a member of the governing Junta of National Reconstruction, he would have promoted the current national state of emergency, because now there are clear signs that something serious could happen in Nicaragua. Engineer Robelo said, "I believe the people must be prepared to defend Nicaragua."

GOVERNMENT LIFTS ALFONSO ROBELO'S PASSPORT

PA180111 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Managua, 17 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Alfonso Robelo, former member of the National Reconstruction Junta of Nicaragua, is trying today to restore his passport. Robelo's passport was lifted last Monday.

Robelo told ACAN-EFE that when he was leaving last Monday on a "routine" trip to Costa Rica where he works each week, the authorities kept his passport.

Robelo went on Tuesday to the Immigration Office but his passport was not returned to him; thus he was unable to travel. Robelo is president of the Democratic Coordinating Board, an alliance of opposition parties.

According to Robelo, besides working in Costa Rica, he had planned to give a lecture at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, but he was unable to travel.

GROUP ASKS GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE PRISONERS

PA162310 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] The Central Committee of the Labor Action and Unity Federation, CAUS, yesterday issued a communique asking the government for the immediate release of the CAUS and Communist Party prisoners. The communique stressed that these men have already spent 5 months in jail, imprisonment which they had considered unjust from the start.

The immediate and unconditional release of the CAUS and Communist Party prisoners would be a very important step towards the strengthening of the unity among the revolutionary forces, the communique said. On the other hand, CAUS condemns the so-called imperialist aggressions and the actions of the counterrevolutionary bands. CAUS asks the people to (?enroll) in the popular militias.

DPRK AGREES TO EXPAND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

PA171826 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The existing commercial relations between Nicaragua and the DPRK will be increased in the future, according to the discussions held between DPRK Vice Minister of External Economic Affairs Ho Hang-Chan and his Nicaraguan counterpart Bernardo Chamorro and other officials of the Foreign Trade Ministry. The visit of the Korean mission to our country constitutes an economic boost to Nicaragua in view of the interest of friendly nations in helping our people, while imperialism tries to thwart the consolidation of our process.

Referring to the subject, Vice Minister Chamorro said:

[Begin recording] The motive of the meeting was mainly to hold a brief exchange of views on the possible increase of our commercial relations with the DPRK. That country has products that may serve our needs and we have some products they use. For example, they can sell us steel for our metal industry while we, in turn, can supply them with sugar, cotton and sesame seed, which they must import for their domestic consumption.

[Question] Were any other topics discussed at the meeting?

[Answer] Yes, we discussed the possibilities for increasing our commercial relations. Last year, our commercial trade amounted merely to $1 million. [end recording]

Delegation's Declaration

PA171832 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1451 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Declaration issued by the DPRK delegation on 17 March on occasion of its visit to Nicaragua]

[Text] The DPRK party and government delegation, after its successful visit to the Republic of Nicaragua, is ready to leave. Before departing, however, we wish to express our deep gratitude to the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and to the FSLN and to the Nicaraguan people, who gave us a heartfelt welcome so that we could spend happy and worthwhile moments in Nicaragua. Although the time we spent here with our close Nicaraguan friends was brief, it had great importance because it contributed to strengthening the friendship and solidarity between the DPRK and Nicaragua.

Our delegation delivered the letter that our great leader, Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president, wrote to dear Comrade Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and warm greetings to the members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, with whom we held conversations in a friendly atmosphere.

The DPRK party and government delegation and the members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction exchanged views aimed at strengthening the friendship and solidarity between the parties and governments of the two countries sharing common interest. We also reached important agreements with which we are highly satisfied.

During our visit, we have seen the heroic struggle waged by the Nicaraguan people who, firmly united around the FSLN, are defending with dignity the gains of the revolution against the aggression, intervention and subversive plans of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, and are also struggling for the construction of a new society. We also could see the combative spirit that prevails throughout the country, which we are sure will contribute to Nicaragua's prosperous and full development.

Let us strengthen combative solidarity. This we must do between our parties, governments and peoples under the anti-imperialist revolutionary, and independent banner.

Let us strengthen the ties of support and solidarity as an important asset in defending the dignity of our countries and building a new independent life, by eliminating all sorts of schemes by U.S. imperialism.

Proud to have as comrade-in-arms in Latin America the Nicaraguan people, who maintain a firm anti-imperialist position and a high spirit of justice, we are convinced that our relations will be broadened and developed still more through our common anti-imperialist struggle, for the independence, friendship and solidarity of our parties, governments and peoples, forged in the same trench of the struggle against U.S. imperialism, our common enemy.

DPRK Covers Visit

For KCNA and Pyongyang radio coverage of the visit of DPRK Premier Yi Chong-ok to Nicaragua, see the North Korea section of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT on 17 March and subsequent issues.

DANIEL ORTEGA PRAISES TARDENCILLA'S ACTIONS

PA172355 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Through Orlando Jose Tardencilla's actions, the people struck those who would promote war with Nicaragua. This was said by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction Junta, when he received at the Government House the young internationalist fighter who frustrated a maneuver in Washington by U.S. officials aimed at involving the Sandinist revolution in the Salvadoran situation.

Daniel Ortega emphasized that Tardencilla's example is worthy of Augusto Cesar Sandino, Carlos Fonseca Amador and German Pomares and that the U.S. officials had tried to turn the young revolutionary into an instrument of U.S. policy in order to justify further aggressions against the Nicaraguan people.

BARRICADA, LA PRENSA DIFFER ON TARDENCILLA CASE

PA150017 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2208 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Managua, 14 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- While the Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA accuses the U.S. officials today of committing a number of crimes in the case of Nicaraguan Orlando Tardencilla, Managua's LA PRENSA praises the results of press freedom in the United States.

In a front-page editorial, the Sandinist paper asks: "In accordance with U.S. laws can a prisoner under the custody of foreign agents be brought into the United States?"

According to BARRICADA, the U.S. officials' crimes include: Illegal and forced internment of a person in the United States; participation and complicity in the kidnapping; coercion and threats in order to force a person to lie and make declarations against his will.

"What is U.S. Secretary of State Mr Alexander Haig's legal situation in this case? Shouldn't he be tried by the U.S. Congress for committing a crime while in the exercise of a public office?" BARRICADA asks.

Meanwhile, LA PRENSA's editorial, signed by co-Director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, praises what he describes as the "unobjectionable advantages: of press freedom in the United States. Commenting on the Tardencilla case, the opposition paper states that the U.S. press has ridiculed Secretary of State Haig.

However, right after this, LA PRENSA writes: "It seems now that the Sandinist Front likes press freedom in somebody else's backyard. When press freedom goes against them (the Sandinists), it is the 'transnationals manipulating information,' 'imperialism's big press,' 'the reactionary press,' 'the defenders of the freedom to exploit,'" the editorial continues. It then adds: "Now that press freedom has won a gigantic battle in the United States on behalf of the Nicaraguan case, it is good. Only one question remains: If press freedom is good in the United States, why isn't it in our country?"

RAMIREZ TALKS TO INTELLECTUALS ON U.S. PEOPLE

PA060150 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] In his greetings to the meeting of the Permanent Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of our America, Sergio Ramirez, member of the junta of the National Reconstruction Government, urged the members of the committee to address themselves to the U.S. intellectuals so they will reject all forms of intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

After summarizing the many attacks by the U.S. Government against Nicaragua, Companero Ramirez said we have not learned to defend our sovereignty through theoretical work but in the most heroic practice. Here is part of the speech by Companero Sergio Ramirez:

[Begin recording] We also want to speak about the U.S. people. Some days ago, we read a dispatch about some remarks by Mrs Kirkpatrick who said that we have refused to change a line in our national anthem which calls the Yankees enemies of mankind. It is not a line in our national anthem but in the anthem of the FSLN and, of course, we are not willing to (?change it). The Yankee to whom the Sandinist anthem refers is [words indistinct] in this century in our fatherland. [Words indistinct] in this impoverished country to further impoverish it, sacking our wealth in the mines. It is the [words indistinct] the adventurer who wanted to take over Nicaragua in the 19th century. It is the Yankee who wanted to (?prevent) the overthrow of the Somozist dictatorship. It is the same Yankee who does not now accept the fact of our victorious revolution and arms, trains and finances the Somozist guardsmen and the traitorous counterrevolutionaries. It is the Yankee who supplies explosives to dynamite our factories, to murder our poor workers.

Therefore, we aren't talking of the U.S. working people who so many times have been manipulated and deceived. We aren't talking of the humiliated and discriminated blacks and the [word indistinct] Hispanics. We are not talking of the simple North Americans, of their [words indistinct], intellectuals, union organizations which defend Latin America, of the nuns and priests who have shed their blood in Guatemala and El Salvador. Those honest and simple U.S. people in the factories, in the rural areas, in the universities, are the ones who can prevent a Yankee intervention in Central America. [end recording]

REBEL RADIO REPORTS CLOSURE OF LA PRENSA

PA180445 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpt] LA PRENSA, the newspaper of the Nicaraguans, has again been closed down by the mangy-dog commanders. The martial law imposed by the Marxists is 10 times more shameful than the one of the previous dictatorship. Less than 48 hours after having imposed the state of siege and martial law, the new Marxist-Leninist dictators of the armed party in power have again closed down LA PRENSA, the newspaper of the Nicaraguans. The newspaper was closed by the FSLN military regime.

This new arbitrary closing of LA PRENSA, which is illegal from any point of view, is further evidence of the true intentions of the communist traitors when they imposed a state of siege and martial law.

U.S. TRAFFICKING IN SOVIET ARMS TO SMEAR USSR

PA172350 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 82

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] In the past few months newspapers and magazines in several countries have published interesting articles on the trafficking in Soviet weapons in which the United States has engaged to give the impression that the Soviet Union is supplying arms to national liberation movements, especially those of Central America. It is necessary to assemble documents, testimony and facts, as if it were a puzzle, to get a clear picture of a somber plot aimed at confusing the people and at hiding the U.S. ambitions of domination and hegemony.

John Stockwell, a CIA colonel who commanded shock troops in Angola in 1975 and 1976, was one of the first to provide pieces of the puzzle with his book "In Search of Enemies." The book was written after Stockwell left the Yankee espionage organization. The U.S. Special Forces manual, published in September 1980; SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, which is financed by the CIA; and more recently, EL OFICIAL magazine, published by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, have all provided new elements in the giant puzzle. From the information provided by these sources, it becomes obvious that the U.S. Government, using its special agents, CIA agents and the intelligence services of its armed forces, is engaged in an active traffic in Soviet arms through Israel, Egypt and China.

Many of you will wonder where the United States got those arms. The answer is simple: Egypt and China gave them to the United States. The late President Anwar as-Sadat revealed the Egyptian action to NBC television 2 days before he was killed. As-Sadat noted that U.S. military planes were taking these arms to Pakistan so they could be delivered to Afghan counterrevolutionaries, who used them to give the impression that the Kabul government was attacking Pakistan. Some of these arms were part of the generous military aid the Soviet Union gave Egypt for a long time, and others were copies manufactured by the Cairo government.

The China case can also be explained. When Beijing decided to do without the multilateral aid from the Soviet Union, it took on the job of copying, without permission or license, the military technology it had received from that country. Beijing even copied modern arms the Soviet did not send the Chinese. Later, Beijing kept the arms Moscow was providing to Vietnam through Chinese territory during the brutal U.S. aggression against the Vietnamese. It has been reported that As-Sadat gave China many Soviet arms, including antitank rocket, T-62 tanks, a MIG-23 and antiaircraft missiles. Angolan counterrevolutionaries led by Jonas Savimbi and Holden Roberto have been trained in complicity with the Zairian regime and under CIA supervision. They were supplied by China with coarse reproductions of Soviet arms.

Now it has become known that U.S. soliders are staging exercises in the United States and Puerto Rico using Soviet weapons. These facts are of great importance now if we realize that the United States is looking for documents that could justify its direct military presence in Central America and the Caribbean and its support for the genocidal tyrannies in El Salvador and Guatemala.

CASTANEDA SEES LOGICAL BASIS FOR REGIONAL SETTLEMENT

PA180200 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Mexican Secretary for Foreign Affairs Jorge Castaneda said in New York that there are objective and logical bases for agreements among the parties involved in the Central American and Caribbean conflict. Castaneda said he hopes the problems of the region will be negotiated.

At a news conference shortly after his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on this matter, Castaneda said the El Salvador problem is a local one and must be solved with a minimum of foreign meddling. He added that although he did not discuss the problem of the secret operations revealed by the Washington POST, there operations must cease for the situation in the area eventually to become normal. Castaneda also noted that this week he will inform the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua about the White House's reaction to the Mexican proposals for peace in the region.

In general terms U.S. Secretary of State Haig agreed that there is a possibility of holding negotiations. He reiterated his opinion that what is happening in El Salvador is of a global nature and involves several countries. Castaneda and Haig agreed to meet after 28 March, when the Salvadoran elections promoted by the United States are scheduled.

U.S. Stand on Negotiations

FL180202 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The Salvadoran people's firm commitment to struggle as well as the solidarity this struggle has aroused in the world have a great deal of bearing on the fact that the U.S. Government has admitted for the first time the possibility of a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis. Revealing statements by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda and the U.S. President himself, Ronald Reagan, were reported Monday. Haig said in New York that his meeting with his Mexican counterpart was extremely useful and helped set the framework for future negotiations. For his part, Castaneda said an opening had emerged for constructive action and some kind of negotiation between the parties concerned. President Reagan told newsmen in Montgomery, Alabama, that he was pleased with Mexico's help in easing tensions in Central America.

It should be recalled that Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo made a speech on 22 [as heard] February in Managua, where he was awarded the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order, in which he proposed a series of steps to create an atmosphere of detente, peace, democracy, stability and development in the Central American region. This speech, reported by our press, was received favorably throughout the world and moved Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to write to the Mexican president. Fidel told Lopez Portillo that Cuba supported the idea of bringing peace to Central America and the Caribbean and that our people could be counted on for this purpose. He also said democratic solutions should be found for the anguishing problems of countries convulsed by hunger, economic backwardness, despotism and the interventionism of those who insist at all costs in supporting bloodthirsty regimes detested by their own people.

That is why the reported willingness of the United States to seek a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis must translate into action. The United States must promise not to attack its neighbors, stop arming and financing genocidal regimes, stop training mercenaries to attack Central American and Caribbean countries, stop its subversive and destabilizing activities in the area, and respect the right of peoples to self-determination and to choose their won destiny. This would be a substantial contribution to peace in the area and to the elimination of existing tensions.

One cannot go against history. No force will be able to prevent the necessary changes that peoples are ready to bring about in the interest of their freedom and independence.

N. KOREAN PREMIER YI CHONG-OK WELCOMED

FL171723 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 1656 GMT on 17 March carries black-and-white coverage of arrival at Jose Marti International Airport of DPRK Premier Yi Chong-ok and a high-level delegation. The Cuban welcoming party, headed by Raul Castro, meets Yi at the plane.

PRC TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HAVANA 17 MARCH

FL172303 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] A Chinese Government trade delegation headed by Lu Xuzhang, deputy minister of foreign trade, arrived in Havana today to sign a trade protocol for 1982. Cuban Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Jose de la Fuente Menendez and other Cuban officials welcomed the delegation. The Chinese ambassador to Cuba, Wang Zhanyuan, was also on hand.

CASTRO ATTENDS HOSPITAL INAUGURATION IN PINAR

FL180221 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Telephone report by (Mayra Viera)]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today inaugurated the Comandante Pinares General Hospital in San Cristobal, Pinar del Rio Province. Also present at the ceremony were PCC Politburo members Julio Camacho Aguilera and Dr Sergio del Valle, minister of public health, among other officials and leaders, as well as some members of the delegation attending the second meeting of Nonaligned Movement health experts which began on 15 March in Havana.

The new medical facility, built at a cost of 12 million pesos, has more than 387 beds and will serve a population of nearly 160,000 in the municipalities of Bahia Honda, Los Palacios, Candelaria and San Cristobal in specialities such as pediatrics, obstetrics and surgery. The complex also includes a dental clinic with many chairs for basic care and a dental laboratory.

The closing speech at the inauguration was delivered by Dr Sergio del Valle, who congratulated all workers who in one way or another helped in the materialization of this project, which is another demonstration, he said, that Cuba and its government spare no effort in making this country a world power in medicine. Prior to the inauguration ceremony, our commander in chief, accompanied by Del Valle, Camacho Aguilera and other party and Public Health Ministry officials, visited the various wards and medical installations of the hospital and the clinic.

BRIEFS

NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR -- Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, today received Rodolfo Echeverria Ruiz, who presented his credentials as the new Mexican ambassador to Cuba. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0033 GMT 18 Mar 82 FL]

CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH SPAIN -- Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos and Spanish Ambassador to Cuba Enrique Larroque signed in Havana today the first cultural and educational cooperation agreement between the two countries. Hart said the agreement reflected the longstanding ties between Cuba and Spain based on common roots. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2117 GMT 17 Mar 82 FL]

GRENADA

BISHOP ADDRESSES REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY RALLY

FL140100 St Georges Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The real answer to Grenada's economic problems lies in the discipline, organization, production and the recognition that Grenada belongs to Grenadians and they alone have the duty to build it. Speaking to thousands attending what was the largest festival rally since March 13, 1979, prime minister and leader of the New Jewel Movement, Comrade Maurice Bishop said that Grenada cannot depend on assistance from abroad for its development but must work harder, produce more and build Grenada. The prime minister said although Grenada has all those countries who gave assistance in the last 3 years, the burden of responsibility for the development of Grenada lies on the shoulders of Grenadians. Placing great emphasis on the economy, he said the benefits [words indistinct] the revolution are not free. The money to pay for them must come from somewhere. Prime Minister Bishop spoke of the expansion of areas such as road building, water supplies, telephone and electricity supplies, the expansion of the port facilities and of the infrastructure projects, saying that it is only by working harder and producing more that these will be [word indistinct].

Speaking on the international economic situation, Prime Minister Bishop said that when the big industrialist capitalist countries face crises like they are experiencing today, countries like Grenada suffer as a result. He said that under the present international situation, the imperialist countries are the only ones who benefit from the unequal terms of trade. They import our goods at very low prices but reexport to us at very high prices. This is why, Prime Minister Bishop said, Grenada is committed to the struggle for a new international economic order.

Prime Minister Bishop said the land is Grenada's treasure and if it is worked, loved and enriched, it will repay Grenada a thousand times over. He said Grenada must diversify its agriculture base and at the same time look for more markets for the products. He underscored the importance of the development of people's democracy in Grenada, saying that it is only through the participation of the people that the country can be developed. Prime Minister Bishop also spoke of the need for peace in the world. He said that no country can be developed if peace is not established and secured in the world. As such, the people of Grenada and the entire world have no choice but to struggle for peace. He blamed the policies of the U.S. administration for the tensions now existing in the region, saying that Washington is attempting to seek world domination once more.

The prime minister reiterated his call for the Caribbean to be declared a zone of peace, pointing out that all military maneuvers by foreign powers in the Caribbean must be outlawed. He said military bases and installations must be removed from all countries that do not want them there. The people of the region must be free to build their own processes free from all outside intervention. Meanwhile, the Caribbean Basin Institute [CBI] proposed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan last week, has been described as the biggest [word indistinct] of the century. Speaking at the rally this afternoon, Prime Minister Bishop said that instead of bringing stability to the region as Mr Reagan said, the CBI will help to destroy the regional unity which the people have fought for over the years. He said the plan will expand the rule of big U.S. (?corporations) in the region, describing it as a new form of colonialism and expansion of profits for the multinational companies. Prime Minister Bishop said that the hypocrisy of the plan also lies in the fact that less money will be spent on it than on the military maneuvers being conducted in the region by the United States.

On the question of the struggle of the people of El Salvador he said that Grenada supports the Mexican-French resolution recognizing the freedom fighters as a legitimate political force in that country and the recent proposal by Mexican President Lopez Portillo for him to act as a mediator in the Central American situation. He expressed solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, Namibia, Angola, Korea, Suriname, Cuba and all other people fighting for their justice.

MILITARY REPORTS CAPTURE OF LEADER OF FAILED COUP

FL180101 Bridgetown CANA in English 0040 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 17 Mar (CANA) -- The Suriname military authorities announced here tonight that they had caputured former Lieutenant Samad Surin Rambocus, 30, the man who led last week's assault on military headquarters in an abortive bid to topple the administration.

They said that Rambocus had been held in the district of Saramaca where he had been hiding since the coup collapsed last Friday.

The military did not give any details of his capture, saying only that such would be released later.

NAMING OF NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT POSTPONED

FL172039 Bridgetown CANA in English 2021 GMT 17 Mar 82

[By Herman Singh]

[Excerpts] Paramaribo, Suriname, 17 Mar (CANA) -- Suriname's ruling military authority last night formally announced it had postponed the appointment of a new civilian administration which was to have assumed office this week.

The announcement came four days after the left leading military headed by army strongman Lt Colonel Deysi Bouterse, crushed an attempted coup by rightwing soldiers and executed the man believed to be the rebel leader, ex-Sergeant Major Wilfred Hawker.

The Suriname information service, in a brief statement, said present circumstances in the country had forced the military rulers to postpone the move to establish a civilian administration and a further announcement would be made at a later date.

The Suriname information service also said the military had cancelled plans by various groups affiliated to it for a celebration on Friday to mark the crushing of Thursday's coup attempt.

It quoted military ruler, Lt Colonel Bouterse, as saying that this was a time for reflection and pause. He also stressed that they wanted peace and not conflict in this Dutch South American republic.

Bouterse said he feared that "unscrupulous people" could use the celebration to carry out "nefarious acts."

Rumours over the past two days yesterday forced a spokesman for acting president, Fred Ramdat Misir, to deny that he intended to step down from office.